

Appl. No. 09/992,612  
Amdt. dated December 6, 2004

**Amendments to the Specification:**

On page 1, please replace the entire section entitled "CROSS-REFERENCE TO PRIOR APPLICATION" with the following new section:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO PRIOR APPLICATION**

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial number 09/774,915, filed on January 30, 2001, now U.S. patent RE 37,665, which is a reissue of U.S. patent number 5,882,350 issued from U.S. patent application serial number 09/002,535 filed on January 2, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application serial number 08/843,972 filed on April 17, 1997, now U.S. patent 5,888,204, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/632,560 filed on April 15, 1996, now U.S. Patent Number 5,725,588, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 08/421,087 filed April 13, 1995, now U.S. Patent Number 5,520,690. U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/002,535 filed on January 2, 1998, now U.S. Patent Number 5,882,350 is also a continuation of U.S. patent application serial number 08/835,909 filed April 10, 1997, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of prior application U.S. Ser. No. 08/663,383, entitled "A Polyaxial Pedicle Screw", filed Jun. 13, 1996, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,669,911 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application serial number 08/559,196 filed November 13, 1995, now abandoned, and which, in turn, was a continuation-in-part of Ser. No. 08/421,087, filed Apr. 13, 1995, now issued U.S. Pat. No. 5,520,690, entitled "An Anterior Spinal Polyaxial Locking Screw Plate Assembly".